November 29, 1999

Dear Colleague:

I'm writing to invite your participation at the next roundtable discussion on caregiving issues, scheduled for Thursday, January 27, 2000.

Our fourth meeting, held on October 20, 1999 in Washington, D.C., showed impressive commitment to developing, implementing, and distributing Medicare and other health care information for the caregiver community. (Notes from that meeting are attached for your information.) It?s now time to begin focusing on specific products to serve these needs, as well as coordinated campaigns to help disseminate the information broadly.

Some of the products ready to share and discuss at the next meeting include a video entitled "Medicare From A Caregiver's Point of View" developed by a partnership of the Social Security Administration and the Health Care Financing Administration, plus a variety of articles on Medicare information resources. Some ideas for coordinated campaigns are also ready for the group's further input. We also hope to brainstorm the group's future direction and ways to elevate the impact of these efforts. A draft agenda is attached.

Your personal participation and your organization's ongoing support are important to the success of this project. You'll not only learn about specific products to share with caregivers, but will be working with other invited leaders in the caregiver community to set a national agenda for action.

The meeting will take place on January 27, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, in Room 705A in the Hubert H. Humphrey Building. The Humphrey Building is located at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. in Washington, D.C., and as you know has special security procedures since it houses the offices of both the Secretary of HHS and the HCFA Administrator.

Please respond by January 20 to Linda Levin at 410-786-4616 (or E-mail at llevin@hcfa.gov) if you intend to participate. Looking forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth A. Handley Director Partnership Development Group

Enclosures cc: Carol Cronin Michael McMullan NMEP RO Contacts CBS Group Directors